

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 4 and 8-39 are objected to. Claims 4, 8-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-32, 34-36 and 39 have been amended.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks.

I. In the Specification

It is asserted in the Office Action that the abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the terms “means” and “said” are used throughout the abstract. In accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b), Applicant has amended the abstract of the disclosure removing the terms “means” and “said.” In addition, Applicant has further amended the abstract of the disclosure to sufficiently assist readers in deciding whether there is a need to consult the full patent text for details. Approval is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts in the Office Action that the Disclosure is objected to because of the informality, namely, on page 9, line 1, the word “ach” appears to be a typographical error and that appropriate correction is required. Applicant submits that the word “ach” does not appear on page 9, line 1 (or on any page). Therefore, Applicant is unable to make the required correction. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 12, 36-38 are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 4 and 8-39 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. Applicant has amended claims 4, 8-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-32, 34-36 and 39 to overcome the 37 CFR § 175(c) objection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 37 CFR § 1.75(c) objection to claims 4 and 8-39 is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion in the Office Action that claims 1-3, 5-7 and 40-41 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely Claims 1-41 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

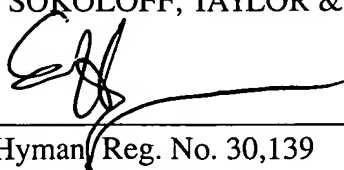
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Per 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and in connection with the Office Action mailed on FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004, Applicant respectfully petitions Commissioner for a one (1) month extension of time, extending the period for response to MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004. Attached is a check in the amount of \$120 to cover the petition filing fee for a 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1) large entity. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

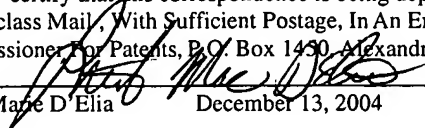
Dated: December 13, 2004


Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class Mail, With Sufficient Postage, In An Envelope Addressed To: Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Linda Marie D'Elia

December 13, 2004 12/13/04

ABSTRACT

A maskless lithography system for transferring a pattern onto the surface of a target. At least one beam generator generates a plurality of beamlets. A plurality of modulators modulate the magnitude of a beamlet, and a control unit controls each of the modulators. The control unit generates and delivers pattern data to the modulators for controlling the magnitude of each individual beamlet. The control unit includes at least one data storage for storing the pattern data, at least one readout unit for reading out the data from the data storage, at least one data converter for converting the data that is read out from the data storage into at least one modulated light beam, and at least one optical transmitter for transmitting the at least one modulated light beam to the modulation modulators.